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Title Slide: Introduction to NCES WebGateways: Accessing and Exploring NCES Data

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This module contains information to help users quickly access and explore NCES data, publications, products, and data tools available on the NCES website.

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Before discussing the various NCES data, publications, products, and data tools, it is important to understand the structure of the NCES website. Hover over the menu icon at the top of the NCES homepage to display the options and move through the columns left to right. The menu features six options in the left column: Surveys and Programs, Data and Tools, Fast Facts, News and Events, Publications and Products, and About Us.

The “Surveys and Programs” tab provides links to NCES surveys, libraries, data systems, and resources. The “Data and Tools” tab allows users to access a variety of data tools, data training, and tables and figures. “Fast Facts” is available for all survey levels and includes library and resource links. The “News and Events” tab provides information about news and events at NCES. The “Publications & Products” tab provides access to NCES publications, products, and annual reports. Finally, “About Us” provides information about NCES, its structure, and activities.

There are three ways to access the items described in this module. Users may use the search box on the NCES homepage, make a selection from the menu, or use the corresponding underlined screen text on each slide to go straight to the item described. To directly access the NCES website, click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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This module has four sections that detail NCES data, publications, products, and data tools. Part 1 discusses general information about NCES and its products. Part 2 discusses the NCES online search tools. Part 3 describes NCES data tools and Part 4 explains how to obtain NCES Public-use and Restricted-use data. Users may click on the corresponding underlined screen text to go to a specific part of the module, use the Table of Contents to find specific tools, or proceed sequentially through the module. Note that there will be an option to return to this slide at the end of each part.

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Part 1 of this module discusses general information about NCES and its products. This section includes information about the “Distance Learning Dataset Training (or DLDT),” the “NCES Blog,” “News Flash,” “Recent Publications,” “Annual Reports,” the “NCES Handbook of Survey Methods,” and the “Statistical Standards Program.”

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This module is part of the “Distance Learning Dataset Training (or DLDT)” system, which contains computer-based training modules for a variety of NCES datasets. The modules are self-paced and they provide resources for increased comprehension including printable transcripts, slides, a glossary, and resource documents. The DLDT has two types of modules, common modules and dataset-specific modules. The common modules provide general information about NCES data and data tools. Users should consider viewing the DLDT common module titled ‘Introduction to the NCES Datasets’ for an overview of the available NCES datasets and resources prior to accessing this module. Dataset-specific modules present detailed information about specific NCES studies, the data they collect and how to analyze the data. The dataset-specific modules provide information on early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, postsecondary education, and international education. Many of the tools discussed in this module will help users explore the data described in the dataset-specific modules. Although these datasets can be accessed through individual NCES program webpages, the DLDT dataset-specific modules not only introduce the datasets, they also provide critical information needed to use the data as well.

More information about the DLDT and the NCES datasets can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “NCES Blog” features short articles about NCES’ latest datasets and tools and is an outreach tool used to connect with NCES data users. The blog evolves as new information becomes available. To directly access the “NCES Blog,” click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “News Flash” is an email-based alert service designed to inform users about new content posted to the Institute of Education Sciences (or IES) website. To receive “News Flash” updates, users should enter an email address and click “Subscribe.” To access the “News Flash” directly, click on the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Recent Publications” page includes NCES publications from the last 90 days. Publications may be sorted by publication number, title, or publication date by clicking either the “PUB NUMBER,” “TITLE” or “DATE” tab. To access the “NCES Recent Publications” page directly, click the corresponding underlined screen text. A more general search facility will be discussed in the “Search Tools” section of this module.

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NCES publishes annual reports summarizing developments and trends in education using the latest available data.

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To access the “Annual Reports” homepage directly, click on the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “NCES Handbook of Survey Methods” provides explanations of how each survey program at NCES obtains and prepares the data it publishes. The Handbook aims to supply NCES data users with the information necessary to evaluate the suitability of the data for their needs, with a focus on the methodologies for survey design, data collection, and data processing.

To access the “NCES Handbook of Survey Methods,” click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “NCES Statistical Standards Program” provides methodological and statistical support to the Center, as well as to federal and nonfederal organizations that engage in statistical work in support of the NCES mission.

More information about the “NCES Statistical Standards Program” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

This concludes Part 1 of the module. To return to the module structure slide to make another selection, click the “Return to List” button. To exit the module completely, click the “Exit” button or you will automatically be advanced to the next slide within the module.

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Part 2 of this module discusses the NCES Online Search Tools. The search tools described in this section include: “Search Tables and Figures,” “College Navigator,” “Search for Public School Districts,” “Search for Public Schools,” “Search for Public School District Longitudinal Data,” “Search for Private Schools,” “Bibliography Search Tool,” “Publications & Products Search,” “Subject Index A-Z,” “Survey and Program Areas Search,” and the “ED Data Inventory.”

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The “Search Tables and Figures” tool lets users locate all tables, figures, and charts published in the inventory of NCES’ National Education Data Resource Center (or NEDRC) Postsecondary Tables Library; the Condition of Education; the Digest of Education Statistics; Indicators of School Crime and Safety and other NCES publications. This tool is updated as new tables, graphs, and figures become available. To access the “Search Tables and Figures” webpage directly, click on the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “College Navigator” provides information on nearly 7,000 colleges and universities in the United States. Users can search for schools based on geographic location, programs and majors, level of award, institution type, and more.

More information about the “College Navigator” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Public School Districts” search tool retrieves information on all United States public school districts. This tool is updated regularly as information from the Common Core of Data (or CCD) data collection becomes available. To access the “Search for Public School Districts” webpage, users may click on the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Public Schools” search tool retrieves information on all United States public schools, including school details and enrollment characteristics. This tool is updated regularly as information from the Common Core of Data (or CCD) data collection becomes available.

To access the “Search for Public Schools,” click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Public School District Longitudinal Data” search tool is part of the “Education Finance Statistics Center (or EDFIN)” and it lets users compare the finances of multiple public school districts over time.

More information about the “Public School District Longitudinal Data Search” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Private Schools” search tool retrieves information from more than 30,000 United States private schools, including school and enrollment characteristics. This tool is updated as information from the Private School Universe Survey (or PSS) data collection becomes available.

To access the “Search for Private Schools,” click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Bibliography Search Tool” allows users to search for individual citations from journal articles that have been published using data from various NCES research

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programs. Note that the NCES bibliography search tool is no longer updated by NCES but remains available as a resource.

To access the “Bibliography Search Tool,” click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Publications and Products Search” allows users to search for a variety of NCES products, including data files, reports, technical documentation, and more, dating back to 1980.

To access the “Publications and Products Search,” click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Subject Index A-Z” lets users select a primary subject to search within the NCES publications and products. Selecting a key subject will yield publications and products pertaining to that subject, organized by publication date.

To access the “Subject Index A-Z,” click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Survey and Program Areas Search” is another way to search within the NCES publications and products. This tool is most useful when searching for publications and products related to a specific survey or program area.

To access the “Survey and Program Areas Search,” click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “ED Data Inventory” describes all data reported to the Department of Education, with the exception of personnel and administrative data. The Inventory includes descriptive information about each data collection, along with information on the specific data elements in individual collections.

More information about the “ED Data Inventory” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

This concludes Part 2 of the module. To return to the module structure slide to make another selection, click the “Return to List” button. To exit the module completely, click the “Exit” button or you will automatically be advanced to the next slide within the module.

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Part 3 describes the various data tools available on the NCES website. These data tools may use Public-use or Restricted-use data. Accessing Restricted-use data for research purposes is discussed in Part 4 of this module.

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The “Education Data Analysis Tool” (or eDAT) allows users to download NCES survey datasets into various statistical software formats. The eDAT lets users create customized data files containing Public-use data from a variety of NCES surveys.

More information about the eDAT can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “IPEDS Analytics: Delta Cost Project Database” lets users download a longitudinal database derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (or IPEDS) finance, enrollment, staffing, completions, and student aid data for academic years 1986-87 through 2011-12. These data have been translated into analytical formats to allow for longitudinal analyses of trends in postsecondary education with a focus on revenues and expenditures.

More information about the “IPEDS Analytics: Delta Cost Project Database” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “IPEDS Data Center” is used to access and evaluate college and university data collected in IPEDS.

More information about the “IPEDS Data Center” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “National Assessment of Educational Progress (or NAEP) Data Explorer,” commonly referred to as the NDE, allows users to create statistical tables, charts, and maps using NAEP Restricted-use data. The NDE features four data explorers, “Main NDE, Long Term Trend NDE, High School Transcript Study NDE, and National Indian Education Study NDE,” which track student achievement in key content and demographic areas.

More information about the “NAEP Data Explorer” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “International Data Explorer (or IDE)” allows users to create customized tables and charts of detailed results from various international assessments, including the “Program for International Student Assessment (or PISA),” “Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (or PIRLS),” “Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (or TIMSS),” “Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (or PIAAC),” and the “Teaching and Learning International Survey (or TALIS).” The IDE provides results for the United States and other jurisdictions around the world from the administration of these assessments.

More information about the “International Data Explorer” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Elementary/Secondary Information System (or EISi)” is an NCES tool that allows users to quickly view public and private school Public-use data and create custom tables and charts using data from the Common Core of Data (or CCD) and the Private School Survey (or PSS). EISi features three components, quickFacts, expressTables, and tableGenerator, which allow for different types of analyses using a variety of data elements.

More information about the EISi can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “DataLab” allows users to generate tables and figures from NCES Public-use or Restricted-use datasets without obtaining a Restricted-use license. “QuickStats” is used to generate percentages, averages, tables, and simple graphs using frequently used variables. “PowerStats” is a table and statistics generator that uses both Public-use and Restricted-use data. And, “TrendStats” is used to explore statistical trends over time by generating averages, medians, and percentages tables. To enter one of the “DataLab” tools choose either “QuickStats, PowerStats, or TrendStats” and then the appropriate education level or study category. Additionally, DataLab tools properly account for NCES studies’ complex sample designs, including standard error. A resource available through the DataLab is the “Learning Center,” which offers users helpful hints for using the DataLab by demonstrating what researchers should do as they are getting started with the tools, including how to choose a dataset and what features are available from the tables. The Learning Center also explains the various types of tables and charts that can be created, edited, and saved within the DataLab. More information about the “DataLab Learning Center” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text. To directly access the DataLab or learn more about the DataLab through the DLDL common module titled “DataLab Tools: QuickStats, PowerStats, and TrendStats,” click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “NAEP State Comparisons” tool uses data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (or NAEP) to create tables and maps that compare states and jurisdictions for selected groups of public school students within a given assessment year.

More information about “NAEP State Comparisons” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Public School District Finance Peer Search” is part of the Education Finance Statistics Center (or EDFIN) and it lets users compare the finances of a public school district with its peers, based on the district type, locale, total enrollment, student/teacher ratio, and the percentage of children in poverty.

More information about the “Public School District Finance Peer Search” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Compare Academic Libraries” tool allows users to compare college and university libraries and is based on data from the Academic Libraries Study (or ALS). The tool includes information on a library’s collection, services, and other selected characteristics.

More information about the “Compare Academic Libraries” tool can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “State Education Data Profiles” tool allows users to search for statewide information in elementary/secondary education, postsecondary education, and selected demographics for all states in the U.S. using a variety of NCES data sources. Users may select up to four states to compare.

More information about “State Education Data Profiles” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “NAEP Questions Tool” provides easy access to NAEP questions, student responses, and scoring guides that are released to the public. The questions tool also includes “Interactive Items, Test Yourself, and Item Maps” so that users may explore questions from computer-based assessments, try out actual questions administered to students, and see what students at each achievement level are likely to know and do.

More information about the “NAEP Questions Tool” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “National Assessment of Adult Literacy (or NAAL) Test Questions Tool” provides questions and answers from the 1985, 1992, and 2003 NAAL that are publically available.

To directly access the “NAAL Test Questions Tool,” click the corresponding underlined screen text.

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“MapED” is a dynamic data-mapping tool that provides geographic context to NCES, the U.S. Census Bureau, and other education-related demographic datasets. Users may create customized maps using the “Interactive Data Map” or explore pre-existing “Story Maps,” which present pre-determined data concepts in an interactive, narrative format.

More information about “MapED” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

This concludes Part 3 of the module. To return to the module structure slide to make another selection, click the “Return to List” button. To exit the module completely, click the “Exit” button or you will automatically be advanced to the next slide within the module.

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Part 4 describes how to access NCES Public-use data (if available) and Restricted-use data by obtaining a Restricted-use data license.

It also describes the offsite archive of NCES data maintained by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (or ICPSR).

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NCES data are divided into “Public-use” and “Restricted-use data.” Public-use data are available to the public, though some data are less detailed to limit possible re-identification of survey participants. Check the homepage of the dataset of interest to access any Public-use data that may be available. Restricted-use data are more detailed, contain individually identifiable information, and require a license from NCES. The DLDT common module, “Acquiring Micro-level NCES Data” provides step-by-step instructions for acquiring a Restricted-use license.

More information on “Restricted-use data” and acquiring a Restricted-use license can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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The “Offsite Archive of NCES Data” is hosted by the “Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (or ICPSR)” at the University of Michigan. The

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consortium may be used to find data from a particular NCES dataset as well as other datasets from various organizations and government agencies. The majority of ICPSR data holdings are Public-use data files with no access restrictions, however there are requirements for accessing Restricted-use data.

More information about the “Offsite Archive of NCES Data” can be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

This concludes Part 4 of the module. To return to the module structure slide to make another selection, click the “Return to List” button. To exit the module completely, click the “Exit” button or you will automatically be advanced to the next slide within the module.

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This module has explained how users can access and explore NCES data, publications, products, and data tools on the NCES website.

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Important resources that have been provided throughout the module are summarized on this slide for your reference. You may now proceed to the next module in the series or click the “Exit” button to return to the landing page.